

TOP SECRET

THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

19 September 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF WAR,  
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY:

SUBJECT: Establishment of a central intelligence  
service upon liquidation of OSS.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff request that the Secretary of War and  
the Secretary of the Navy forward the attached memorandum to the  
President.

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

WILLIAM D. LEAHY  
Fleet Admiral, U.S. Navy,  
Chief of Staff to the  
Commander in Chief of the Army  
and Navy.

Enclosure

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Date 6/26/91 HRP 89-2

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ENCLOSURE

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

A memorandum from the Director of Strategic Services on the establishment of a central intelligence service was referred to the Joint Chiefs of Staff on 22 November 1944 for their commend and recommendation. The matter received careful study and consideration at that time and the Joint Chiefs of Staff were prepared to recommend, when opportune, the establishment of such an agency in three days, namely:

1. An Executive Order setting up a National Intelligence Authority (composed of the Secretaries of State, War and the Navy, and a representative of the Joint Chiefs of Staff), a Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (appointed by the President), and an Intelligence Advisory Board (heads of the principal military and civilian intelligence agencies).
2. Preparation and submission to the President by the above group of a basic organizational plan for establishing the complete intelligence system.
3. Establishing of this intelligence system by Presidential directive and legislative action as appropriate.

Since their first studies, the Joint Chiefs of Staff have had referred to them a letter from the Director of Strategic Services to the Director, Bureau of the Budget, dated 25 August 1945, renewing his proposals on the subject. Meanwhile, the cessation of hostilities, certain undecided questions regarding the future organization of the military establishment, and the development of new weapons present new factors which require consideration.

The end of hostilities has tended to emphasize the importance of proceeding without further delay to set up a central intelligence system.

The unsettled question as to post-war military organization does not materially affect the matter, and certainly warrants no further delay since a central intelligence agency can be fitted to whatever organization or establishments are decided upon.

Recent developments in the field of new weapons have advanced the question of an efficient intelligence service to a position of importance, vital to the security of the nation in a degree never attained and never contemplated in the past. It is now entirely possible that failure to provide such a system might bring national disaster.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff recognizes, as does the Director of Strategic Services, the desirability of:

- a. Further coordination of intelligence activities related to the national security;
- b. The unification of such activities of common concern as can be more efficiently conducted by a common agency; and
- c. The synthesis of departmental intelligence on the strategic and national policy level.

They consider that these three functions may well be more effectively carried on in a common intelligence agency, provided that suitable conditions of responsibility to the departments primarily concerned with national security are maintained. They believe, however, that the specific proposals made by the Director of Strategic Services are open to serious objection in that, without adequate compensating advantages, they would over-centralize the national intelligence service and place it at such a high level that it would control the operations of departmental intelligence agencies without responsibility, either individually or collectively, to the heads of the departments concerned.

In view of the above, the Joint Chiefs of Staff append hereto an alternative draft directive, which they believe retains the merits of General Donovan's proposals, while obviating the objection thereto.

The success of the proposed organization will depend largely on the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. In the opinion of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, he should have considerable permanence in office, and to that end should be either a specially qualified civilian or an Army or Navy officer of appropriate background and experience who can be assigned for the requisite period of time. It is considered absolutely essential, particularly in the case of the first director, that he be in a position to exercise impartial judgment in the many difficult problems of organization and cooperation which must be solved before an effective working organization can be established.

APPENDIX DRAFT

DIRECTIVE REGARDING THE COORDINATION OF INTELLIGENCE  
ACTIVITIES

In order to provide for the development and coordination of intelligence activities related to the national security:

1. A National Intelligence Authority composed of the Secretaries of State, War and the Navy, and a representative of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is hereby established and charged with responsibility for such over-all intelligence planning and development, and such inspection and coordination of all Federal intelligence activities, as to assure the most effective accomplishment of the intelligence mission related to the national security.

2. To assist it in that task the National Intelligence Authority shall establish a Central Intelligence Agency headed by a Director who shall be appointed or removed by the President on the recommendation of the National Intelligence <sup>AUTHORITY</sup> Agency, shall be responsible to the National Intelligence Authority, and shall sit as a non-voting member thereof.

3. The Director of the Central Intelligence Agency shall be advised by an Intelligence Advisory Board consisting of the heads of the principal military and civilian intelligence agencies having functions related to the national security, as determined by the National Intelligence Authority.

4. The first duty of the National Intelligence Authority, assisted by the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency and the Intelligence Advisory Board, shall be to prepare and submit to the president for his approval a basic organizational plan for implementing this directive in accordance with the concept set forth in the following paragraphs. This plan should include drafts of all necessary legislation.

5. Subject to the direction and control of the National Intelligence Authority, the Central Intelligence Agency shall:

a. Accomplish the synthesis of departmental intelligence relating to the national security and the appropriate dissemination within the government and of the resulting strategic and national policy intelligence.

b. Plan for the coordination of the activities of all intelligence agencies of the government having functions related to the national security, and recommend to the National Intelligence Authority the establishment of such over-all policies and objectives as will assure the most effective accomplishment of the national intelligence mission.

c. Perform, for the benefit of departmental intelligence agencies, such services of common concern as the National Intelligence Authority determines can be more efficiently accomplished by a common agency, including the direct procurement of intelligence. 2

d. Perform such other functions and duties related to intelligence as the National Intelligence Authority may from time to time direct.

6. The Central Intelligence Agency shall have no police or law enforcement functions.

7. Subject to coordination by the National Intelligence Authority, the existing intelligence agencies of the government shall continue to collect, evaluate, synthesize, and disseminate departmental operating intelligence, herein defined as that intelligence required by the several departments and independent agencies for the performance of their proper functions. Such departmental operating intelligence as designated by the National Intelligence Authority shall be freely available to the Central Intelligence Agency for synthesis. As approved by the National Intelligence Authority, the operations of the departmental intelligence agencies shall be open to inspection by the Central Intelligence Agency in connection with its planning function. In the interpretation of this paragraph, the National Intelligence Authority and the Central Intelligence Agency will be responsible for fully protecting intelligence sources and methods which, due to their nature, have a direct and highly important bearing on military operations.

8. Funds for the National Intelligence Authority shall be provided by the departments participating in the National Intelligence authority in amount and proportions to be agreed upon by the members of the Authority. Within the limits of the funds made available to him, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency may employ necessary personnel and make provision for necessary supplies, facilities and services. With the approval of the National Intelligence Authority, he may call upon departments and independent agencies to furnish such specialists as may be required for supervisory and functional positions in the Central Intelligence Agency, including the assignment of military and naval personnel

PINK CARD

SECRET (When Filled In)

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5 pp.

LOCATION:  
HS/HC-802,  
Item 5 and

ABSTRACT

HS/HC-31 ✓  
Item 21

In the recommendation to the President the Joint Chiefs concur in the proposal of the Director of Strategic Services which would establish a national Intell Authority, a Director of a Central Intelligence Agency and an Intelligence Advisory Board. A draft Directive on the coordination of Intelligence Activities is attached.

(Source document for HS-1, Chapter II, page 11.)

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